THE

HEAVY DUTY

NEW IDENTITY

Revised and Expanded
Second Edition

John Q. Newman

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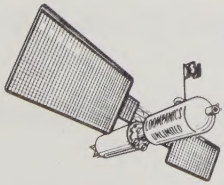

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The Heavy Duty New Identity, Revised and Expanded
Second Edition

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INTRODUCTION TO THE SECOND EDITION

Seven years have passed since the first edition of this book was published. During those years, the ability of police agencies to locate fugitives has increased tremendously. A number of new computer programs allow the authorities to track, locate and apprehend fugitives suspected of serious crimes more effectively.

One such program is VICAP, which stands for Violent Criminal Apprehension Program. This is a computer program developed by the FBI to compare numerous similarities in seemingly unconnected crimes, and by doing so, locate the suspect. But it is not only violent criminals who are the subject of searches by police agencies.

The latest "poster child" in the law enforcement community is the deadbeat father who owes untold thousands in back child support. Many states have now turned this failure to pay overdue child support into a criminal offense, instead of just a civil one. It is now a federal crime to cross state lines to evade the payment of child support.

The net result of this is that tens of thousands of individuals, who have not committed any act of violence, are now fugitives from justice, subject to imprisonment, just like a murderer or rapist, if located by the authorities. Many states now have a ten most wanted list of deadbeat parents that is posted publicly.

The individual who is the user of heavy duty new identity must understand who is looking for him, how they will look for him, and the precise steps he must take to ensure his continued freedom. The single most important item the user of a heavy duty new identity must never forget is that the "system" will never leave him alone until it has exacted its price. There is much confusion on this point, which has lead many users of heavy duty new identity to be caught.

A few years ago a woman who had been charged in a student protest related campus bombing in the late 1960s decided it was time to turn herself in. It was now twenty five years later, and her assumption was that any penalty she would face at this point would be minimal. She was wrong. In the end, she wound up spending quite a few years in prison.

This type of confusion is born out of statute of limitations laws that regulate the prosecution of all crimes, except capital murder, in nearly every state. The statute of limitations limits the period of time within which legal action can be taken against a person for an alleged crime. If the statute of limitations is five years to prosecute someone for check fraud, then the authorities cannot lay new charges in a check fraud case that happened ten years ago.

However, if a warrant was issued against an individual ten years ago in a check fraud case, that individual can still be prosecuted on that charge. Now, as a practical matter, it may

be difficult or impossible to mount a case that long after the incident, but the individual named on the warrant can still be arrested.

If you are the subject of a warrant, unless you are willing to go to jail, you will need to follow the guidelines laid out in this book very carefully. It is still quite possible for a fugitive from justice to create a new identity successfully and live the rest of his life without constantly looking over his shoulder, or getting a sinking feeling whenever police sirens wail in the distance.

Part I
CREATING A NEW IDENTITY

Chapter One
HEAVY DUTY

Many books have dealt with identity changing for the person who wants a new identity for personal reasons. These reasons could range from just wanting to "drop out" of the ever-expanding data collection efforts to wanting a second chance at getting reestablished in credit after allowing a few bills to get past due too long.

But there is a second type of individual who needs a new identity and this person's needs are fundamentally different. For this person, creating a secure new identity can be the difference between life and death, freedom or incarceration, or any number of other serious repercussions. This person needs a heavy duty new identity.

Each week on *America's Most Wanted* I see people who committed major crimes years ago, like murder or million dollar bank frauds, suddenly caught after a spot about them aired on the program. I have researched many of these cases and usually the person is caught because of one or two mistakes.

The first mistake is continuing to engage in criminal activity. If you are unwilling to go straight after you have committed a heavy crime, no amount of identity changing will protect you. Your file will continue to be updated by the police, and when you are busted under an assumed name, they will quickly learn who you really are.

The second mistake usually involves the new identity itself. Unlike the new identity seeker who is looking only to enhance his privacy, the serious user of a new identity must have *all* of the bases covered, or "backstopped." It is usually an overlooked detail in the backstopping process that causes the eventual discovery.

This "backstopping" encompasses all sorts of things from personal background to your personal habits. We will examine each step in detail. This first aspect that must be examined for the new identity seeker with a price on his head is to understand how the Feds, local police, or bounty hunters will try to find you and go through the various stages the search for a wanted person goes through. Once we understand this, we can structure our new identities to deal with each phase.

Chapter Two
THEY WANT YOUR ASS

The most intensive phase of a search for a person wanted for a serious crime usually comes immediately after the disappearance of the person. For a person incarcerated, this would mean after a jail break. For a person who empties out the bank vault one night, it will be the next morning when the theft is discovered.

Regardless of what your status was before, once you are really "wanted" similar things will occur. The first is that your picture or likeness and a brief description of your crime and personal particulars will be circulated on the National Crime Information Center (NCIC) computer. The license plate numbers of any cars you drive will be given as well. If the crime is very serious, telephone monitoring will begin with your close relatives' telephones. Investigators will go out and talk to members of your family and friends to find out more about you. They will want to know about your hobbies, where you like to travel, etc. With this information they will issue special alerts to concerned parties. If, for example, you are a weekend pilot, local general aviation airports will

receive a notice to be on the lookout for a person of your description and pilot license number attempting to rent an airplane. If you often traveled to Jamaica, a special notice will be sent to the police in Jamaica to be on the lookout for you. The police will also go through all the information in all government databases to glean some idea of where you may be going. This means your Motor Vehicle file, Income Tax file, Social Security files, bank records, etc.

What the police count on is two things. The first is that even though you are wanted for a serious crime, you will attempt to call or visit your family, old girlfriend or friends. It is unbelievable how many murderers are caught this way. The second thing is that even if you are smart enough to cut off all contact with previously known people, you will not change *all* your distinctive habits. You will, for example, continue to work in the same occupation or to engage in the same hobbies.

If you previously subscribed to *Home Beermaking* and the police have learned that, it isn't very difficult for them to monitor the new subscriber list for three months and have the local police make cursory checks of the people pulled from the list. You may want to laugh, but many a serious criminal has been captured this way. During the time period right after your escape or crime you are pursued very vigorously. The reason for this is most people will be caught within a month or two after the crime, because then your case is still "fresh." The tracks are still warm, and it takes a little while before other murders, rapes, and robberies displace your case. During this initial phase, the investigation is an "active" one. The police are aggressively pursuing you. Witnesses are contacted, a case file is put together, and all the stops are out. During this period the police are looking for that "break" that

will send them to you. After a while when this does not happen, although this case is still "active," it is no longer occupying much of the investigator's time. Other cases where an apprehension is more likely come to the fore.

At this point the surveillance and electronic monitoring of your friends and family will taper off. The local police will always be "on the lookout" for you, but the intensive part of the search is over. As possible leads come in, they will be followed up, but newer cases will be dealt with first. A year later the case file will be put into a central file at the local police department. Depending on what type of crime it was, it will be periodically re-opened to check for any new leads. Usually this consists of reinterviewing witnesses or relatives, and seeing if any similar crimes have occurred lately. The computer warnings at NCIC, however, will continue. After another year has passed, the case is all but dead. The police realize that the suspect planned his getaway a long time ago and kept his details straight. Unless it is murder, eventually the statute of limitations makes it impossible to prosecute you.

This is the point where programs like America's Most Wanted become dangerous to the new identity seeker who has gone straight for four years after pulling off a big armored car heist. These programs immediately put your case back into the public eye, and always generate a lot of leads (99.99% of them lousy) and if you are not careful in your new identity, earn you a one-way trip to where you would rather not be.

The solution I propose is using a two-step identity change. The first step will give you a "transitional" new identity while your case is still fresh. This transitional identity will withstand

scrutiny and allow you to survive the point in time when the heat is the greatest. The second step is your permanent new identity. This identity will be the long-term identity under which you will live. You will start using it later on once you have arrived at your new destination of permanent residence. There will be no connection between the two identities, so even if the transitional identity should be compromised somewhat (say someone recognizes you) it will not destroy your long-term security.

Chapter Three
FUGITIVES AND THE POLICE

The level and type of search for a fugitive depends in large part on the type of offense the individual is suspected of, and how long ago it happened.

We have all had the experience of driving around and suddenly seeing a large number of police squad cars and officers on foot patrolling a neighborhood. Usually a robbery or other street crime has taken place, and the police have set up a perimeter to box the suspect in. The perimeters can involve up to thirty or more officers, and can be very elaborate.

But this is a lot of smoke and mirrors. If the individual is not located soon, the perimeter is abandoned. Technically, the subject of the perimeter is now a fugitive from justice. But this is a moot point. Without a name, or a serious crime of violence, the search for this fugitive is over.

A person can become a fugitive via a number of avenues. One way is when the police issue an arrest warrant and cannot locate the individual named on it. Another is when a

person is granted bail by the court, and refuses to show up for subsequent court dates. An individual on probation or parole can become a fugitive by violating the terms of same, and going on the lam.

Who looks for a given fugitive? That depends on what the charges are and how you became a fugitive. All police officers are empowered to arrest fugitives at any time. The reality is much different.

An individual can become a fugitive by having an unpaid driving citation that has since become a warrant. If this individual leaves the state where the warrant was issued for the purposes of evading arrest, he is a fugitive.

This type of low-level warrant will usually not be acted on out of state. The out-of-state cop will usually inform the motorist of the warrant's existence and send him on his way. This type of warrant is a nonextradictable warrant. Warrants such as these are not entered on to the warrant file of the main NCIC computer system, but are entered on each state's central crime computer.

Traffic warrants are the example of the most minor type of warrant. The search for these "fugitives" involves little more than putting the warrant information on the computer and waiting until the hapless individual comes in contact with the local police. Public safety is not endangered by these individuals, so no search is mounted for them.

Real searches are reserved for those who are wanted for serious misdemeanor and felony warrants. The police have a serious interest in seeing that you are arrested. The level and type of search will increase in intensity as the severity of the charges goes up.

A person wanted for murder, manslaughter, rape, pedophilia or armed robbery receives the most intensive search after the warrant is issued. If the individual cannot be located when the warrant is initially served, an intensive effort will be made by the detectives assigned to the case to apprehend the suspect.

This activity may include releasing details of the crime to the media via a press conference, and active canvassing of the suspect's known hangouts and homes of the suspect's family and friends. The warrant details will also be placed onto the NCIC wanted persons index. This will alert police throughout the nation who come in contact with this individual that he is the subject of a warrant for a serious crime. We will discuss in detail the NCIC system in a later chapter.

If the local police believe that the subject will attempt to leave the state or country to avoid prosecution, the FBI is informed. It is a federal offense to cross state lines to avoid criminal prosecution. The Canadian Border authorities will be alerted to be on the lookout for this individual should he attempt to exit the country into Canada. Interpol will also be contacted to be on the lookout for the individual.

If the individual is the subject of federal charges, the US Marshals service is the agency primarily responsible for locating federal fugitives. The same steps may be taken by the Feds if the charges are considered serious enough.

As the severity of the charges drop, the intensity of the search drops. If the individual is not considered a danger to the public and is not wanted for serious drug charges, the search may consist of little more than a rush of initial activity that quickly tapers off. Periodically detectives assigned to the case may visit hangouts of the suspect and make telephone

calls, but they will be hoping that the suspect gets caught during a routine traffic stop, or during the commission of another crime. These are the two ways most fugitives are apprehended.

As the date of the warrant recedes, the resources that can be devoted to the search dwindle. The sad fact is that there is so much violent crime that most resources must be devoted to recent cases where a suspect can be located.

A person can also become a fugitive after bail is posted, and then fails to make required court appearances. This individual may become the subject of a manhunt much more intensive than that of a serial killer, depending upon what the bail amount was.

If an individual bails out on a fifteen thousand dollar bond for auto theft, and then skips, the bail bonding company will be required to pay to the court the fifteen thousand dollar bail. Needless to say, the bail bonding company has a strong interest in returning the suspect to custody as soon as possible so that the court will return the bail money.

To locate the fugitive, the bonding company will use the services of a bounty hunter or fugitive recovery agent. These individuals are not police officers, but private citizens who will be paid a percentage of the bail amount if the fugitive is recovered. The higher the bail amount, the more intensive the efforts of the bonding company will be.

Bounty hunters operate with enormous powers granted to them by the US Supreme Court back in the 1800s. They are unregulated in most states, and can do things that police officers are prohibited from doing. Essentially, the courts have held that once an individual reneges on his bond, the

bonding company and his agents have broad powers to locate and apprehend this individual.

The important aspect of this for the heavy duty new identity user is that if you are absconding on bail, a private party has a financial interest in returning you to custody. The bonding company's efforts to locate you will not fall off over time, the way the police effort will. In fact, the bonding company will hope that as time passes, you will let your guard down, and they will be able to catch you.

We now have a list of players involved in a search for a fugitive. The beginning point of the search involves the many computer systems available to law enforcement personnel. In the next chapter we take a detailed look at these systems and how they work.

Chapter Four
POLICE COMPUTERS AND HOW THEY SEARCH FOR YOU

Every day thousands of local police departments, in addition to state and federal law enforcement agencies, issue thousands of arrest warrants for individuals. Most of these warrants are minor, but a large number of them are for serious, extradictable offenses. Forty years ago there was no national system for these warrants. The NCIC system was developed so that an extradictable warrant issued anywhere in the nation would become a truly "nationwide" arrest warrant available to police agencies all over the country.

NCIC stands for National Crime Information Center, and the heart of this is the computer system and its many databases. The NCIC computer system is run by the FBI, and all accredited police agencies in the nation and the Canadian RCMP have direct access to it.

The NCIC computer has a number of different databases that it can access. Some of these are:

WANTED PERSONS INDEX

MISSING PERSONS INDEX

STOLEN VEHICLE INDEX

STOLEN PROPERTY INDEX

SECRET SERVICE PROTECTIVE INDEX

INTERSTATE IDENTIFICATION INDEX

FOREIGN FUGITIVE INDEX

There are other files, but these are a representative sample. The files of concern to the heavy duty new identity user are the wanted persons index, interstate identification index, and stolen vehicle index. These are considered "hot files," because they can lead to the immediate arrest of an individual.

The wanted person index is self-explanatory. Anytime an extradictable warrant is issued anywhere in the United States, the local police department will enter it on the NCIC computer. An extradictable warrant is one where the originating jurisdiction will send someone to return the fugitive back to that locale if he is apprehended in another state. The originating jurisdiction may also be required to pay the costs of incarcerating the suspect in the out-of-state jail until pickup.

Each state will have its own laws regarding how long they will hold an individual on an out-of-state warrant. The state of Nevada, for example, gives the originating state 15 days to collect the fugitive. After this time period has elapsed, the fugitive will be released.

At any given time there are over half a million active arrest warrants on the NCIC computer. A warrant entry can be

made with as little as a name and year of birth. Most warrant entries are more complete and will contain the following information:

FULL NAME AND ALIASES

DATE OF BIRTH

SEX

RACE

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

PLACE OF BIRTH

DRIVER LICENSE OR IDENTITY CARD NUMBER

VEHICLE REGISTRATION NUMBER

DETAIL OF CHARGES

When an officer pulls an individual over for a traffic citation, he runs the full name and birthdate against the NCIC wanted persons database. If the computer gives a tentative hit, he then attempts to match more identifiers. This is very important because people with very common names may show a tentative hit on the database, sometimes against numerous warrant entries. Only if there is a match on other physical data will the officer make an arrest. One thing is clear, however. Until the user of heavy duty new identity can create his new identity, the wanted persons index on the NCIC computer is the greatest threat to his freedom.

The stolen vehicle index is also of interest to the heavy duty new identity seeker, even if his vehicle is not stolen. When a police officer stops a vehicle, he runs the tag number for "wants and warrants." A "want" is if the vehicle is of interest because it is suspicious and might have been involved in

criminal activity. Because there is not enough information to impound the car, it is simply listed as a want.

A "warrant" on a vehicle is when a known vehicle has been seen involved in the commission of a crime, and the police want to impound it. A warrant is also issued on a vehicle if it has been stolen.

When an arrest warrant is issued on NCIC for a serious crime, the police will attempt to determine any vehicles the suspect owns or uses, and then will add these to the "Want" file on the stolen vehicles index. If police stop such a vehicle, they will be instructed to be on the lookout for the suspect.

The next file of interest to the heavy duty new identity user is the Interstate Identification Index, or Triple I, for short. Essentially, this database is a nationwide repository of criminal record information compiled from all fifty states and the federal government.

In theory, each state should forward to the FBI a listing of the disposition of all serious misdemeanor and felony charges brought against suspects. The FBI will then create a central repository of this information. States can then use this database to determine if an individual has a criminal record anywhere in the United States. The index can be accessed with full name, birthdate and sex.

Access to the database by street-level police varies. Some states allow street-level cops to access Triple I, others do not. The relevance of Triple I to the heavy duty new identity seeker is that your long criminal record can follow you across the nation, even if you are not presently the subject of an active arrest warrant.

Each state has a state-level equivalent of the NCIC computer system. An officer can access any state's system by simply selecting which state system he wants to run a name against, in addition to the NCIC system.

A police officer will typically run his own state's computer system when he pulls over a driver with an in-state license. The state computer system will pull up warrants that cannot be listed on NCIC, such as those for unpaid traffic or parking tickets. The driver can be arrested for these because they are enforceable anywhere within the state of issuance.

The officer will also run the state computer of the state of issuance of an out-of-state motorist who is pulled over. If he finds traffic or parking warrants, he will typically inform the driver, but he cannot normally make an arrest on these.

Police officers also have access to motor vehicle department records. This allows them to verify the validity of any driver's license in real time. They simply select the state whose license they want to verify on their computer menu, and enter in the license number. A few seconds later the computer will return the validity status of the license along with the name of the individual to whom it is issued. When checking an in-state license, the computer will return much more information, including the driving record and any pending traffic citations.

The foreign fugitive index contains the names of foreign criminals whom it is suspected may attempt to enter, or have already entered the United States as a way to avoid prosecution for crimes committed in their homeland. If one of these individuals attempts to cross the border, they will be sent back to their country of origin.

It should be clear from this examination of NCIC, that the heavy duty new identity user cannot take any vehicles with him from his old life. This is one method the police count on to catch otherwise crafty fugitives. They change everything else, but will not give up the automobile they are driving. Re-registering or retitling the car also does little good, in fact that can lead the hounds to your door faster.

The paperwork associated with retitling or re-registering a car creates a trail that can lead directly to you. Remember, the serial number of the car remains the same. An investigator could order what is known as a "body history" on your old car, and follow it to your new name. This is the case even if you go through three or four dummy sales in different states. The fact is, automobiles are better documented than individuals in our society.

There are a number of private databases that can be used to find the heavy duty new identity seeker. We will cover this in the next chapter on bail bondsmen, because they frequently use these private databases to locate fugitives.

Chapter Five
BAIL BONDSMEN AND BOUNTY HUNTERS

We mentioned briefly that bail bondsmen and bounty hunters are not police officials, and hence are not hamstrung by the many rules and regulations that control what police agencies are allowed to do. This lack of regulation of bail bondsmen allows them to use many other databases aggressively to search for fugitives that police departments do not routinely use.

When a bail bondsman assigns a case to a bounty hunter, he will give the bounty hunter the complete arrest and bonding file on the individual. When an individual obtains bail, he is requested to complete some lengthy paperwork at the bonding company office. This is a requirement of the bondsman's insurance company, who will be required to make good on the bail should the suspect skip town. The information these forms will request will typically contain the following items:

FULL NAME

ALIASES

BIRTHDATE

SOCIAL SECURITY NUMBER

RACE

SEX

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION

CURRENT ADDRESS

PREVIOUS ADDRESS

TELEPHONE NUMBER

VEHICLE LICENSE PLATE NUMBER

EMPLOYER NAME AND ADDRESS

WORK TELEPHONE NUMBER

NAMES AND ADDRESS OF THREE RELATIVES OR FRIENDS

TELEPHONE NUMBER OF SAME

As one can see, it is a good deal of information about an individual. It serves its purpose. If you skip, the bonding company has numerous places to search for you. If you are hiding out with a friend or relatives, they probably know what the address is. They know where you work, where you live, and the car you drive. If a bondsman has to start a search for you, he begins with a lot of information. He also has the financial incentive to find you.

Bondsmen make extensive use of credit bureau files to locate individuals. Many otherwise successful heavy duty fugitives have been caught this way. This is how they do it.

On your bonding forms is your Social Security number. Many a heavy duty new identity user relocates and changes everything but the Social Security number. If a credit check is run on this individual for any reason, such as utility or telephone service, and the old Social Security number is used it will link itself to the information already in the credit bureau files. Hence, the new address of the heavy duty fugitive is now easily available to the bondsman.

This information is contained in what are called Social Security trace reports, and they are available from any number of sources for under twenty five dollars. A bondsman can also locate a careless new identity seeker who attempts to build a new identity around a known alias.

One heavy duty new identity user decided to create a full fledged new identity around one of his aliases. He assumed the police did not have the name. He decided to establish a credit history for this name by applying for credit in this name at his current address, using a different Social Security number than his own. Once he had done so, he skipped town.

During the follow up investigation, the bondsman ran what is known as an address update report through the credit bureau on all the fugitive's known aliases, with his former address. The one alias came back, along with the Social Security number he was now using. All the bondsman had to do now was wait until the fugitive attempted to use the Social Security number again to apply for more credit at his new address, and he would nab him.

An address update report will return an unknown Social Security number if an individual has applied for credit at a given address using the input name. Bondsmen make use of this search extensively to locate skips.

Bondsmen will also run mail forwarding address checks, especially if a fugitive subscribes to certain magazines, or newspapers, or purchases items via mail order catalogues. All of these provide avenues for locating an individual. The bondsman also counts on the fact that as time passes, you will become careless, and do something that will allow him to find you, such as making a visit home, or moving back to the area where the warrant was issued.

Bondsmen will also check driving records and vehicle registrations. Many fugitives are caught by attempting lightweight methods of identity changing. An example of this would be exchanging their current drivers license for an out-of-state license, and then getting the name changed on the new license. A trace of the driving record will show this name change. Re-registering a vehicle in a new name will similarly be pierced quickly by a bondsman.

If the new identity is needed because of a bail skip, the break with the past must be absolute. If the bail involved was only five hundred dollars, the search will not be all that intensive. But if the individual has absconded on a twenty thousand dollar bail, then there are twenty thousand reasons why someone will find him.

Some fugitives believe crossing the border into a foreign country is an excellent way to lie low until the heat passes. One new book on identity changing recommends this as a possible plan. In the next chapter we will see why this is almost always a bad idea.

Chapter Six
CROSSING THE BORDER

Movies and television have made the idea of the fugitive crossing the border into Mexico or Canada until the heat passes a popular idea. It seems so simple, and it appears to offer an ideal solution for the heavy duty new identity seeker. The reality is that taking this course of action can lead to the heavy duty new identity seeker's immediate apprehension, and failing that, make establishment of a long term new identity much more difficult.

Some readers may argue otherwise, using the example of Canada and the Vietnam era draft dodgers. Tens of thousands of American draft evaders, technically fugitives on NCIC, escaped successfully into Canada. Most of these individuals were able to establish successful new lives in Canada, and many eventually became Canadian citizens. But this example is an exception.

The Canadian government made a political decision that Americans who disagreed with the draft were not criminals in the eyes of Canada, even though the US government viewed

them as such. If the only arrest warrants out on an individual were ones related to draft evasion, the individual concerned would be allowed into Canada.

At the same time, however, Canada continued to honor its extradition treaty with the United States for people wanted for, or convicted of, other crimes. Rest assured that murderers, rapists, armed robbers and drug dealers found no haven in Canada during this period. These individuals were routinely arrested by Canadian immigration authorities and deported back to the United States for trial.

The important point being that no foreign country is interested in being host to large numbers of American fugitives on the lam for serious crimes. Most fugitives who flee US justice to another nation are caught and returned for trial. Many examples of this can be found on the television programs *Unsolved Mysteries* and *America's Most Wanted.* Each week on both of these programs there are usually stories of American fugitives who have been apprehended in foreign countries, particularly Canada and Mexico.

In addition to facing the problem of being arrested by immigration police in a foreign country, you also face serious problems when you attempt to reenter the USA — which you will have to do at some point.

You might think that you can cross the Rio Grande river as many of Mexico's citizens do each year, or cross the unfenced Canadian border at a rural spot. Well, the first alternative has become much more dangerous and expensive than it was just a few years ago.

The U.S. Border Patrol has undergone a well publicized tripling in size, and an additional three thousand agents will be added over the next four years. New fences, motion

detection devices and other barriers make the southern border even more inhospitable. The border build up is reflected in fewer illegal aliens making the crossing, and in the doubling and tripling of the prices that border crossing guides, or "Coyotes," charge their clientele.

The Canadian option is also not so easy. Finding a rural spot to cross the border unobserved is easy in theory, but the practicality of this option is somewhat dubious. You must somehow get yourself to this isolated spot, with sufficient provisions to sustain you, make the hike through the forest across the border until you reach a town where you can get public transportation northward. This must be done without arousing the attention of any law enforcement or border personnel.

Let's look at the real problem of attempting to lie low in a foreign country until the heat passes. We will consider Canada first. In theory it should be easy for an American to get lost in Canada for a few months. Canada is very similar to the United States, English is spoken, and the organization of the society is very similar to the USA.

The reality is different. Once you cross the border into Canada, it will be very apparent to most people you run across that you are an American. Your accent will be very pronounced, you will be unfamiliar with handling their money, and you will be in the dark about some aspects of their society. The average American knows very little about Canada, and this ignorance is very noticeable when in Canada.

The next problem will be one of money and immigration status. As an American you cannot legally work in Canada without the proper immigration papers. It is very difficult to

get a work permit for Canada. Working for cash is possible, but as an American, it will be clear to anyone you approach about this method of employment, that you are an illegal immigrant searching for employment under the table. You might well be reported to the immigration police and arrested.

The practical result of this is that you will need enough money to cover all your expenses. You will have to live in either a hotel or a furnished apartment. If you are living in a hotel, you will need a good cover story as to why you are staying so long.

This does not even begin to address the problem of getting into Canada in the first place. If you make your run for the northern border after a warrant is already issued, you might very well be arrested by the Canadian authorities when you cross.

All individuals crossing the border on buses, trains, and airplanes are subject to customs and immigration inspection at the Canadian border, or in the case of an airliner, upon arrival in Canada. In general, border inspections proceed as follows: The bus will pull into the Canadian border station, and all passengers and their luggage will be offloaded. The passengers will then file past customs inspectors and show a piece of photo identification and/or some other piece of proof of US citizenship. The travelers' names will be run through the Canadian immigration and customs computers to see if they are on the list of people prohibited entry into Canada, and if there are any warrants outstanding. This is where you will be caught.

Inspections on trains provide a better chance for the fugitive because the Canadian officials usually board the train, and hence do not have their computers available. You might slip by this way, but it is a risky proposition.

At this point you might propose Mexico as an alternative. It certainly is much easier to get into Mexico. If you do not wish to go through any customs inspection at all, simply walk across the border into Mexico. This is quite legal, and many American tourists who do not wish to imperil their automobiles in Mexican border cities do just this.

They park their automobiles at a fenced, guarded parking lot on the US side of the border. They then walk into Mexico via a pedestrian entrance nearby. The Mexican immigration authorities do not inspect anyone who enters the country this way.

But once you are in Mexico, the same problems that label you as an outsider beset you here also, except they are many times magnified. Unless you are a Mexican-American who speaks fluent Spanish, it will be clear to all that you are a "gringo" hanging out south of the border. Your very appearance labels you as an outsider.

Once you have been in a given locale longer than any legitimate tourist, questions will arise about your extended stay, especially if you look as if you are on a budget. Opportunities for employment are almost nonexistent. Once again you also face the problem of violating some Mexican immigration laws if the police get wind that you have been in the country too long. In Mexico, shakedowns by officialdom are much more common because corruption is endemic at all levels of government.

Going to a Caribbean island also poses the same problem. After a while, your lack of nationality in the country you pick will cause you to violate some local immigration law. Even if you are Black, locals can tell the difference between a Black American and a local from a mile away. One Caribbean

option might be the US Virgin Islands. You could legally work here, as this is a US territory. On the downside is the very high cost of living, and the fact that even here, you will stick out as a mainlander who has come to the island to work.

Another problem is that anyone who enters or leaves a US territory must pass through US customs. If your name has already had a warrant issued, you will be detained entering your new home. And this brings us to the true folly of hiding out outside the United States until the heat dies down — the fact that you must return to the United States at some point.

The United States has the most sophisticated border screening computer system of any nation on Earth. All individuals and vehicles who enter the United States are subject to screening by something known as the Treasury Enforcement Computer System, or TECS, for short. This computer system makes the NCIC computer seem like a child's toy in comparison. TECS is responsible for the apprehension of thousands of fugitives every year who are attempting to enter or return to the United States.

The US Customs Service is the front line agency that inspects most pedestrian, automobile, bus, train and passenger ship traffic in the United States. The Customs Service is a branch of the Treasury Department, which includes the Internal Revenue Service. The Immigration Service is a branch of the Justice Department, which includes the FBI.

The TECS system allows a customs officer to query any number of databases simultaneously. Another function of TECS allows the customs agent to determine if a given traveler fits the profile of a likely drug smuggler or other criminal.

When people drive into the United States, the customs agent inputs the license number and state or province of the car into the computer. Immediately, the NCIC stolen vehicle database is consulted along with an internal customs service database that contains vehicle information about cars suspected of being involved in smuggling activities.

The inquiry itself also generates a permanent record of this vehicle's crossing of the border in the TECS computer's memory. Later, a customs agent can consult the computer to determine how many times this particular vehicle has crossed the border.

If the agent is interested in the ownership of the vehicle, he can go to a different screen and call up the vehicle registration information from the concerned state or provincial motor vehicle department.

The next level of screening begins if the customs agent asks the people in the car for some identification. He will check each name and birthdate against the NCIC wanted persons index followed by the Customs Service in-house file of persons who are suspected of smuggling or other customs violations. After these two databases are consulted, the computer will check to see if any of the individuals are listed on the US Immigration Service "lookout" book of people who are to be denied entry into the USA.

If all these checks come back clean, the agent can proceed to a third level of scrutiny. He can access the Triple I database of the NCIC system, to see if the individual has a criminal record anywhere in the United States. He can also access TRW Credit Header data. If the address on the driver's license is a mail drop, the header report will confirm this. He can check for a Social Security number this way, or

even see if the address on the license is an address the Customs Service has listed in its database of suspected locations of smugglers or other customs offenders.

Essentially, TECS gives the customs officer access to myriads of information sources about an individual at the touch of a button. TECS far outstrips the information local police officers have at their disposal via NCIC.

The second hurdle the new identity seeker faces in attempting reentry into the United States, in addition to TECS, is the unique legal position one is in at the border. The US Supreme Court has held that, since a traveler at a border point of entry is not technically in the United States, all of the Constitutional protections that would apply to an illegal alien who has snuck across a few hundred feet away, do not apply to a US customs station. Customs officers have an unrestricted right to search you and your belongings, and do not need a warrant to do so. Keep this in mind if you are trying to bring back additional false identity papers with you.

The point of the foregoing is to make it clear that exiting the United States until the heat is off is not an alternative for most heavy duty new identity seekers. There are too many people and systems dedicated to apprehending fugitives crossing the border to make this a worthwhile plan. What every heavy duty new identity seeker needs is a good hideout with which to effect the two-step vanishing plan discussed later in this book. In the next chapter we will examine what differentiates a good hideout from a bad one.

Chapter Seven
SELECTING A HIDEOUT

The heavy duty new identity seeker will need to establish a short term hideout to effect his plan of establishing a secure, long term new identity. A good hideout should offer the heavy duty new identity seeker the ability to be anonymous and attract a minimum of attention until the heat dies down.

A great hideout should also offer opportunities for casual employment, and be large enough so that a new face does not attract a lot of attention. A city that has a large transient population is an excellent idea.

The worst hideouts are small towns. In a small town, a new face almost always is the subject of conversation and curiosity. In a small town, police officers are also known to many people, and are not the faceless strangers they are in a big city. Also, many of the people you meet may interact with police officers, and mention that a new face is in town.

A large city of at least two hundred thousand people is the best choice of hideout. You also want to consider a city where members of your ethnic and/or racial group are well

represented. The last thing you want to be is the only Mexican-American in a town, or the only individual of Asian descent. Your very appearance will be noticed and spark conversation.

Cities that have large transient or tourist populations are best. In these cities, you will be just one of the continuously changing cast of characters. Among such preferred cities are the following:

Orlando, Florida

Las Vegas, Nevada

Reno, Nevada

Los Angeles, California

San Francisco, California

New York City

New Orleans, Louisiana

Phoenix, Arizona

Chicago, Illinois

Denver, Colorado

Houston, Texas

Dallas, Texas

Seattle, Washington

Fort Lauderdale/Miami, Florida

San Diego, California

Of course, many other cities could go on this list, but these cities offer excellent hideout characteristics. The heavy duty

new identity seeker can also take many steps to make his hideout undetectable.

In most of the listed cities, there are numerous nice, furnished apartments for rent. You should attempt to rent a furnished apartment that includes utilities whenever possible. An apartment that includes utilities means that you will not have to order utility service in your own name. One way investigators locate missing persons is to check out the identities of those who have recently ordered utility service in a city. By selecting a utilities-included apartment, you close off this source of information.

Telephone service can pose a similar problem. There are a number of solutions to this. In many cities you can order a voice mail number connected to a pager. People can call you and leave a message, which you can return at a later time. Your pager will alert you, and the greeting can be customized with your voice. This is especially useful to have when you must complete paperwork that requires a phone number.

You can even have an actual telephone, albeit in an expensive fashion, if you wish, with no paper trail. In many cities, services that offer prepaid cellular service are cropping up. No credit check is required. You simply purchase the telephone outright, at a deep discount, but you must purchase your airtime from the provider in advance at a hefty markup. They typically offer one rate which covers both local and long distance calls.

These services usually do not require you to furnish identification. In ten minutes you can walk out the door with a cellular telephone. If you use this sparingly, only when you need to return a call right away, you can avoid running up a large bill.

Before you relocate to a hideout, you need to investigate it first. The best way to do this is through out-of-town newspapers available at your local library, or via the Internet. Just be careful that you do not leave any traces of your investigations someplace where a future police search may uncover them. A trick used by some heavy duty new identity users is to leave, in a place police will find, brochures and information about a city far away from anyplace they would really go. The police will "flash" upon this material, and reorient their search for you in this direction. The same is true of bail bondsmen. Another trick is to make some long distance telephone calls to apartment rental agencies and real estate people in this location. When your telephone records are pulled, this will provide further evidence that this is the city where you are planning to relocate.

You will not have magazine subscriptions in your new hideout, and engage in any distinctive hobbies or trades. In short, there will be little evidence of your existence at your new location, and any trails an investigator might use to locate you will prove fruitless.

All heavy duty new identity users face the problem of keeping in contact with some people from their old life. In the next chapter we will examine ways of safely doing this and how to maintain your freedom over the long haul.

Chapter Eight
STAYING FREE AND KEEPING IN CONTACT

Most heavy duty fugitives are eventually caught, and often it occurs either after a relatively short time of being on the lam, or years or even decades later. Clearly then, the most dangerous time for a heavy duty new identity user is at the very beginning and the next most dangerous time is many years later. We will see how the heavy duty fugitive can avoid falling into the traps that snare most of their colleagues. We will also see how it is possible to maintain contact with a small number of trusted family and friends without jeopardizing your continued freedom.

Most fugitives are caught because they continue to engage in the serious criminal activity that got them into trouble with the law in the first place. Consider a group of bank robbers as an example.

Bank robbery is a federal crime, and the FBI apprehends most bank robbers. The FBI is able to apprehend these individuals, not because they possess some sort of magical powers, but because the robbers do not know when to call it

a day and stop. No matter how polished and professional the bank robbers are, each heist they pull off provides the FBI with a little bit more information as to their modus operandi and identities. Eventually, even the most skilled crew of bank robbers makes one error too many that then puts the FBI hot on their trail.

Let us contrast these bank robbers with a different type of stick-up artist. This second group of robbers has decided to make only two heists, divide the loot, and then find other avenues of employment. These robbers will probably never be caught. Why? Because they will not leave an ever growing trail of information for the police.

Consider serial killers. These individuals live for the thrill of killing. They kill expertly, and can lure even very street savvy individuals into their traps. But most of them are eventually caught because the sheer volume of killings that they commit provides a huge file of evidence from which deductions about their identity and motives can be made.

The killer who is never caught is the cold-blooded individual who decides to kill, say, three people in total, and then never kill again. Just when the authorities are starting to amass some data on this individual, the spree of violence ends.

The point which I make numerous times in this book, is that if you want to remain free under your new identity, you must give up conducting criminal acts. By leaving your criminal past behind, you eliminate the key trait of criminals that law enforcement people count on. Law enforcement people believe that people do not change, and that a criminal will continue to commit new criminal acts in the future, even if living under a new identity.

The facts certainly bear this out. An examination of the government witness protection plan provides many such examples. Each year a number of relocated government-protected criminals are rearrested on new charges for the same type of criminal acts that led them to be in the witness protection program in the first place.

When you stop engaging in new criminal acts, you make the trail grow cold very fast, and further sever the links between the old you and the new identity. No amount of identity changing will protect you for long if you continue to engage in criminal activity.

The next thing the heavy duty new identity user can do to insure his continued freedom is to adopt a lifestyle that is nondescript and involves no contact with police officers. People who are nondescript could look identical to a mass murderer on *America's Most Wanted*, and not face anything but some gentle ribbing about how they look something like the killer on TV last night.

Nondescript individuals fit in with their surroundings, and are one of many. Being nondescript also allows you to distance yourself from your past physical appearance.

The first step is to look at yourself carefully and make notes about the following personal traits:

Hair Length and Style

Beard or other Facial Hair

Weight

Physical Build

Type of Clothing

Regional Accent or Speech Dialect

Personal Mannerisms

If you make small changes in one or more of these items, you can change radically how you appear to other people. Consider how you react when a woman you know comes from the hairdresser with a new haircut and style. "Wow, that sure looks different," or some other similar statement comes to mind. Now, consider if that same woman had a new hairstyle, lost 30 pounds, and began to dress better. At a distance, or even up close, you might not recognize her.

A similar example can be found when people remark that couples who have been together for a long time start to look alike. It is not that the two people start to look alike, it is that they start to pick up each other's mannerisms and expressions. We create visual cues out of these, and the net result is that we think the people look more alike.

If you size yourself up in the mirror, there are any number of items that you can alter that when taken together, will change your appearance to the world. Begin with your hairstyle. If it is very short, consider growing it a little longer and styling it differently, or vice versa, if that is your situation. If you have a mustache and/or beard, shave them off and become clean shaven.

Weight is another area where small changes produce big results. If you are an obese person, losing thirty pounds and getting physically in shape will alter your look a lot. If you lose sixty pounds, you will be unrecognizable as the old you.

Look at the clothes you wear. The arrest warrant for you might be looking for a person in scraggly jeans and a T-shirt. Consider how different you would look in a pair of casual

dress slacks and a button down shirt. Whatever clothing changes you make, ensure that they fit in with what the natives of your new locale would ordinarily wear.

If you wear glasses, consider getting contact lenses. If you have no need for glasses, consider how different you will look if you adopt a pair of nonprescription reading glasses as part of your new persona.

Acquiring or losing an accent requires more effort. If you possess a strong regional accent, such as Southern or New York, you will need to make a concerted effort to lose it in lieu of Middle American speech. This is the accent that is found all over the country, and is usually considered to be no accent at all.

The fastest way to lose an accent is to make a list of words that are unique to your dialect, and then make a concerted effort to stop using them. A second list of words should be made that are said in a different manner by people with your accent. Practice saying these words over and over until you can say them without your accent.

Picking up an accent is easier. Your daily exposure to people speaking the way you want to will provide numerous opportunities to mimic. Just be careful not to overdo the cadences of the desired accent.

Changing your body habits is also important. Most people can recognize the walk of someone they know well. Practice changing your walk. Examine how you sit and stand, and make changes in this also.

By changing the type of car you drive, you further distance the "new" you from the old. If previously you have always driven sporty foreign cars, be ready to acquire a nondescript

econobox in your new identity. It is remarkable how closely we identify a person with they type of car they drive.

Any distinctive occupations and hobbies need to be discontinued. The same is true of subscriptions to special interest magazines and newspapers, and even certain publishers of unusual books. If you wish to order or subscribe to these materials, it should be done via a mail drop in a city far away from your current address. Have this mail forwarded to a post office rented in your new city.

The next part of your program to remain free without having to look over your shoulder constantly is to resist the urge to tell others about your situation. This is especially important with members of the opposite sex. The second most common way long-term fugitives are captured by police is via tips from jilted lovers.

This advice may seem obvious, but there is an innate human need to share our deepest secrets with someone. In the heat of romance, tongues can become dangerously loose. The heavy duty new identity user cannot afford this luxury. Remember that most romantic liasons do not end with a trip to the altar, but with a breakup. Most of the time, some level of acrimony is involved, and the aggrieved party would not mind settling the score. Keep your mouth shut and continue enjoying your freedom.

The next part of your freedom program involves learning as much as possible about new identity and identity documents. The book you are reading now is designed to be an advanced course on identity changing. You will need to read the following books, at a minimum, to develop a complete understanding of new identity creation and detection:

Reborn In The USA, by Trent Sands, Loompanics Unlimited.

Understanding US Identity Documents, by John Q. Newman, Loompanics Unlimited.

Acquiring New ID, by Ragnar Benson, Paladin Press.

Counterfeit ID Made Easy, by Jack Luger, Loompanics Unlimited.

You can also stay versed on new identification topics and issues by consulting relevant Web sites on the Internet by using a search engine, such as Yahoo. Major newspapers such as the *New York Times* frequently have articles on these topics. Make a point of watching such programs as *America's Most Wanted* and *American Bounty Hunter.* These programs will provide detailed, graphic information on how fugitives are caught, and the latest techniques used to locate them.

Now that we have a program in place to remain free, we need to look at how the heavy duty fugitive can stay in contact with family and trusted friends without giving himself away to the authorities.

The point to remember is that time is on your side. As time goes on, your case becomes an old case that is supplanted by other, more recent cases, where the possibility of arrest is much greater. Periodically your case file will be reviewed, and detectives may reinterview witnesses and your family or other known associates, but this is the extent of it, unless a new lead has come in that reenergizes the case. By following the steps given earlier in this chapter, you ensure that no new leads are received.

The first problem is how to remain in regular contact with parents and relatives. This is relatively simple. There was a

case recently in the news where a man had spent the last ten years on the lam for two rape charges. He had lived the life of Riley as a ski bum all over Europe during this time. His parents had regularly written him, sent him money, and even gone to Europe to visit him twice during this time. All without law enforcement knowing.

"How could this be?" you might ask. Unless law enforcement people have reason to believe that family or friends are aiding your flight from prosecution, they cannot get telephone and mail intercepts as a matter of course. Most relatives and friends of fugitives urge them to turn themselves in, and the authorities count on this. Make sure that your friends and parents present such an attitude to law enforcement people, telling them that they will call them if they hear from you.

After a few months have passed, you can safely write to relatives. Always use a mail drop hundreds of miles away from your true location. Have the mail from this drop forwarded to a second drop located in Canada, Mexico or some other foreign country. Have this mail sent to you by a prepaid Federal Express airbill from time to time to differing addresses.

Another way to safely send mail is to write to relatives at their work address, if they are allowed to receive mail there, or contract with a secretarial service in your old town in a different name, and have this mail sent to your relatives from time to time. It will appear as if they are receiving correspondence from a business located in town.

E-mail is yet another option. If your relatives have a computer and Internet access, you can exchange messages routinely via e-mail. You can obscure your true location even

further by obtaining an e-mail box from one of the many free e-mail services available to the public. If someone did intercept the message, the routing codes would give no indication of your true location.

Actual visits home are more problematic. If enough time has passed, and you have altered your physical appearance enough, you might be able to safely accomplish this as well, with a few qualifiers.

The first is not to visit on major holidays, or even birthdays of relatives. A bounty hunter might make a pass by a relative's house at this time on the off chance that you might be in town. The second proviso is that as few people as possible know about your visit. Only the relatives concerned need know, and they must not discuss it with other people.

An alternative to this is to meet your relatives or friends at another location when they are on vacation or a trip. The point is, the more time that passes, and the more your looks have changed, the less likely it is anyone will associate the new you with the old.

Chapter Nine
THE TRANSITIONAL IDENTITY

The transitional identity is designed to let you survive the most intensive period of searching activity. Essentially, it will allow you to be "on the lam" without appearing to be. A few pointers here first. You must set up the essentials of the transitional identity *before* you make your move. What the transitional identity boils down to is using a bogus birth certificate to build your new "self" around. But this is done with a few precautions. Often when a wanted person goes missing, an audit is made by the authorities of recent vital statistics birth certificate requests. This is especially true when the person wanted has stolen a massive amount of money or committed a particularly violent crime. The authorities will check with the vital statistics branches of your home state, state of your birth, and neighboring states. The authorities are wise to wanted fugitives creating a new identity.

Even in using the counterfeit birth record method of creating a new identity, you must be sure to use a genuine birth document to create the blank certificate form. You

should write to a vital statistics bureau from a distant state to get the form. This should be done well in advance of your need for it. You can write for the birth certificate by going through the birth and death notices in a newspaper of a large city in this state. To guard against your being connected to this request further, you should make use of two mail forwarding services. Get a mail drop in the state that you will request the certificate from, and a second mail drop in another faraway state. Only from the second mail forwarding service will you have the certificate forwarded to yet another mail drop in the state where you are residing. Once this is done you can begin to build the identity particulars.

Whereas the casual user of a new identity can and often will use one of his real names in the name of the new identity, you cannot afford to do so. There must be no link or resemblance between the two of you. You should sit down with a sheet of paper and make up a history of all the pertinent data. Change your month, day and year of birth as well. Your table should look like this:

First Name

Middle Name

Last Name

Birthdate

Birthplace

Mother's Maiden Name

Father's Full Name

This should bear absolutely no resemblance at all to the facts about your old self. Once this information has been decided upon, you can proceed to create a new birth

certificate. Depending upon the type of paper the certificate is printed on, you can make a copy of the original and then blot out the data. After that you can insert the new data and make a copy of this certificate onto similar card stock. If your certificate is printed onto fancy engraved stock, you still have some options available to you. First, many older issued certificates are still around and are printed on regular paper. You could run off the body of that certificate onto regular paper and make a copy of this, then have it notorized. Or you could obtain your own embossing tool and do it yourself. The possibilities are endless. In many states more than one type of birth certificate form is available, depending on whether the form comes from the central state registry or a local deputy registry. I recommend you first consult the book called *Counterfeit I.D. Made Easy,* by Jack Luger. In reality you will find that most birth certificates are easily duplicated. The thing is to write to a variety of states that are potentially suitable for your needs, and then select the best one.

We now have a the nucleus of our transitional identity. If you have followed the steps outlined, you will have procured the birth certificate without leaving a trace of your actual location. The next crucial step is to decide how and where to flesh out this identity.

Chapter Ten
THE TRANSITIONAL IDENTITY II

For the casual new identity seeker, the next phase of the identity change is straightforward. A bogus Social Security card and number are obtained, then one proceeds to obtain a number of pieces of supportive identification. After this supportive identification is obtained, you would then proceed to obtain a state identity card and, after that, a drivers license. But your needs are a little different because a lot of people are interested in finding you. The first item you must consider is the new location where you will proceed. When the authorities are looking for a serious criminal who has disappeared, they make use of the fact that even if the individual has been smart enough to cut all ties with previous friends and family, he will tend to gravitate to a new location that is similar to the old one.

As an example of this, consider the Pacific Northwest part of the United States. The Pacific Northwest offers a unique way of living for its residents. It is nearly a thousand miles from the major centers of population in the rest of the nation, and this isolation and mild climate have given it a distinctive

culture. People from Seattle, Washington, when they do move, move most often to Portland, Oregon. So rest assured that if you are a wanted felon from Seattle, it is a good bet the police in Portland, Oregon, will be on the lookout for you.

A few years ago a fugitive from the Vietnam Era student disturbances in Seattle was recaptured in the State of Oregon. This man was wanted for attempting to blow up a military recruitment center on a university campus and for punching a police officer in 1969. In 1987, they caught him. This man had changed his name and had acquired a profession in the interim, but two careless mistakes led to his capture. The first mistake was that he had not moved to a different geographic area. The FBI had kept his photograph and particulars on referral at their Oregon offices. The next mistake he made was in not backstopping his new identity. He had changed his name, but had done so in such a manner that the link between the old and new name was easily found. As well, he was still legally married to his wife, even though they had not seen each other in years. These are mistakes that you will not make.

The easiest solution is to plan on going to a large city in the state where your bogus birth certificate says you are from. If this is not feasible, just make sure you heed the lesson of the above example. You must leave far, far behind your old lifestyle and city. (For more pointers on selecting a hideout, reread Chapter Seven.)

The first step is getting a Social Security card. Yours will be bogus, of course, but that will suffice. Open up another mail drop in the city where you will be proceeding. Privately made Social Security cards are available from many locations,

and many people carry a privately issued card because they have long ago "lost" the real thing. Another reason the government has not cracked down on privately made Social Security cards is that the cards are not supposed to be used for identification anyway. You can locate a private seller of Social Security cards by looking through the classified sections of the national tabloid newspapers or the back pages of such magazines as *Popular Mechanics, Popular Science*, and the like.

Choose a card that resembles a real one. Over the years many types and styles of Social Security cards have been issued. Essentially the card says "Social Security" at the top. In the body of the card is the number, followed by a signature panel for your name, and your name is also printed on the card.

Once you have obtained a suitable card, you must pick a Social Security number that accurately reflects your "background." The best way to do this is to look at the Social Security Number List in Appendix Three of the book, *Reborn In The U.S.A.* The first three digits of your Social Security number indicate the state in which you got the number. For simplicity, I suggest that you choose a state series that corresponds to the new state of your birth. The middle two digits can reflect the year when a number was issued, or if it is out of range and has not been issued. The last four digits are simply a numerical sequence for that batch of numbers.

After the Social Security card, I suggest you get an Insurance Identity card. These cards are often plastic and credit card sized, with your name, address, and birthdate, plus a signature panel. Another piece of identification to get is a Voter's Registration card. In many states a Voter's

Registration card is an excellent piece of supportive identification. Because it is issued by the government, it allegedly confirms your citizenship and residency status, and has your signature and birthdate. Write for an application to the local authority in your new city that handles voter cards. Many states, in order to encourage more people to vote, allow application by mail. Apply for a library card the same way.

Now our supportive identification is almost complete, except you need to get some identification with your picture on it. One excellent piece of identification is a Hostelling Association card issued by the Council on International Education Exchange. Essentially, by joining this organization you become eligible to stay at hostels around the world for a very low cost. Anyone can join. The identity card they will send you has your photograph on it, as well as your name, address, birthdate, and signature, and is laminated in hard plastic.

The second piece of picture identification you will create yourself. Check through the telephone book in your new city under the heading "Secretarial Services." Write a few of them asking them how much it will cost to get an "identity package" consisting of telephone answering in the company name and company mail handling. You can expect to pay between $50-100 a month for this service. Think up an innocuous sounding company name, making sure no one else is doing business under that name. Then have a local printer in *your new city* print up business cards, letterhead, envelopes and, most importantly, *employee identifiction card* blanks in the new company's name. Your request will arouse no curiosity. This card and company will harden your transitional identity further. For your job title pick something totally

innocuous like deliveryman or clerk. Do not under any circumstances try to resume any previous occupation if it was distinctive in any way, or required membership in a professional licensing body or trade organization. This is precisely where the authorities would keep a lookout for a time. You must break these old habits 100%.

The other identity hardening documents you should attempt to acquire before your arrival are a checkbook and bank machine card. These coupled with your other identity documents will harden your identity sufficiently so you can obtain a state identity card and drivers license with no problem. Write to a number of banks, savings and loans, and trust companies in your target city. Your story will be you are moving to town soon and would like to have your banking services already in place on arrival. You would ask them to send the account opening forms to you, in *care of the address and name of the cover company* you have previously set up.

If you have the time and money, I recommend you take the next steps long before you need the new identity. By going to your new city beforehand and obtaining a state identity card and drivers license you greatly simplify things in the future. Always get the state identity card first. Once you have this, you are already into the system, and when you apply for a drivers license, the process will go faster. With all of your supportive identification and birth certificate you will be processed with a minimum of fuss. When you are getting the state identity card get a copy of the Driving Manual and study it. Return a few days later and take the written test. Now you will have a learners permit. If for some reason you cannot take the driving test right away, say there is a backlog, which is common in many states, you have still solved your

problem, because when you do get to town permanently you can arrange to take the driving test shortly thereafter.

Chapter Eleven
MAKING THE BREAK

Your transitional identity is now in place and it can function for you, but it is crucial that you make the "break" correctly. The break being the day when you leave the old you behind and start a new life. This is also the day the police will be on your trail. First off, do not even begin to think that you can take your old car, or any other vestiges of your old self, into your new life. You must sell off or abandon these things.

What you do next varies somewhat depending on whether you have had prior contact with the police. If you have been incarcerated or arrested for a serious crime before, then there's no question that your fingerprints are on file with the police. If this is the case, a week or so before you make your big break, sell off your car and other possessions, and destroy or throw out all of your personal effects. Also make sure you pay off your last month's bills to the landlord and utilities. This way they will have no incentive to assist in the hunt for you. Same with banks and credit card companies. Simply

close out your accounts and settle your bills, if you can afford to.

Another consideration when you are still in the planning stages is to arrange rental accommodations in your new city. You would do this a couple months in advance of your "break" so the new apartment rental and utilities would be old news by the time you are on the lam. You would do this as soon as you had hardened up your new identity sufficiently to rent an apartment. This way, when you do leave, you have a "home" already waiting for you.

If you have never been incarcerated and fingerprinted before, you have a potential advantage available to you if you prepare carefully. Because no fingerprints are on file for you at NCIC, if you were to be arrested under your new identity, your fingerprints would come back clean, and your assumed name would become your real name. IF this is your situation when you are preparing to leave, wear a pair of rubber gloves and thoroughly clean your house, car, and anyplace else you would have left fingerprints. Destroy all personal papers. Even if the police were able to lift a partial fingerprint off of something, it would not be enough to match up against a whole set of prints and identify you.

The day you leave, burn up your old wallet and all your old identification. You will take public transportation out of town. You will purchase a bus or train ticket to a distant city in an assumed name, and upon arrival in *that* city, you will purchase another ticket to your true destination. Upon arrival in your new location, you will maintain a very low profile for at least a month. So arrange to have sufficient resources available to cover this time period. This period will see the most intensive part of the police search to locate you.

Never telephone your old city, or write to any address there. Your connection must be 100% severed. To monitor the police activity going on to find you, go to a large library and read the newspaper from your old city, or purchase it from a newsagent that stocks out-of-town papers. Under no circumstances arrange for a mail subscription to your old hometown paper. *Many* have been caught that way. Do not attempt to cross the border into Canada during this period either. One of the first things done when a serious fugitive is sought is to call up the computer records of all border crossings for the last few days to see if anyone crossed the border who they might want to check out further. Lay low. Get up in the morning and go to the library. But until this month is up, don't look for a job or anything else. Just practice being invisible.

Chapter Twelve
LIVING IN THE TRANSITIONAL IDENTITY

After your month of living incognito, it is safe to begin creating more of a life for yourself. The first step in this is to start striking up casual acquaintanceships with people who can possibly assist you. The best way to do this is to become a regular churchgoer on Sunday. Mind you, you will actually tell these people very little. You will be a person who will "talk a lot, but say nothing." By going to church on Sunday you will meet people who can act as a reference for you when applying for a job, etc. But you will keep your distance. For example, if your telephone number is requested by the church for some reason, give them the message number at your mail forwarding service. Don't get emotionally involved with these people. Enjoy their fellowship on Sunday, contribute to the collection plate, and be a good guy, so to speak, but that is all.

You will also want to start becoming a regular customer at a certain store or restaurant. This starts to reinforce your standing in the community and makes living your new identity easier. You should now start looking for a job — simply

entry level work, at a restaurant, janitorial service, as a clerk, etc. Your cover company will provide your local employment reference, and you now have people who can act as a reference for you. Your Social Security number will be the bogus one given earlier. This will not cause too much trouble because you will not be living permanently under this identity, probably no longer than nine months or so. And as long as your payroll deductions roll into Social Security on a regular basis, the government will not say much.

As you are living under this transitional identity, you will continue to hone your new appearance and mannerisms. In short, the transitional identity will allow you to separate yourself totally from the old you. But you cannot live under the transitional identity forever. It is not strong enough to sustain you. About three months later you will start to lay the foundations for your permanent new identity.

Chapter Thirteen
THE PERMANENT NEW IDENTITY

The permanent new identity is designed to withstand any amount of scrutiny. Under the permanent new identity you will be able to live the rest of your life, or at least until the statute of limitations has run its course on whatever you did. At the core of the permanent new identity is a real birth record. This birth record must show the same sex, race and approximately the same year of birth as your own. If anyone ever wanted to verify your actual birth certificate, it could be done. There are a number of considerations you must keep in mind when selecting your new birth record.

First, you want the birth record of a child who was born in one state but died in another. Secondly, the sex and race of the child must match yours. Thirdly, you must do a lot of research to see how many relatives the deceased infant had, and where they are presently living. A child with ten brothers and sisters still living in the same area is a bad idea. Excellent candidates are children who were abandoned or raised in foundling homes.

After you find a potential candidate you will obtain the death certificate. Usually, between the death certificate and the newspaper account, you will have information about the child's brothers and sisters, parents' names, and parents' marital status, and whether or not the child was abandoned or being raised in foster care, etc. While you are waiting for the birth record, start doing some research. Go through the telephone books and city directories for all locations given in the newspaper accounts, then look for potential relatives. Check where you are living now to see if there are any relatives in your area. Finally, check these locations to see if *anyone else* is using this identity. *Never, ever* use the birth certificate of a child who died in a major disaster or catastrophe like an airplane crash or fire. Many other false identity books recommend this, but for you it will lead to a quick trip to the big house. Why? These identities have been used so often, by other private citizens and Federal Government Agencies, that these birth certificates are "flagged" for non-release or an investigation is made of the person requesting them.

You will always employ the usual safeguards when requesting birth documents. Set up another mail forwarding service in another state to request these documents. After you have found a birth certificate that is suitable, you will essentially do what you did before when you created the transitional identity, except with some differences.

You will make another move, so once you have obtained the new birth certificate, rent a mail service in the city that you will live in with your permanent identity. You will still avoid returning to the region from where you came. The same methods you used before to obtain the supportive

identification for the transitional identity you will employ here.

Now, however, is where you may wish to use some of your previous skills and education. If you have a degree or training in a specific skill, I recommend that you obtain new credentials. One way to do this is through one of the legally licensed, unaccredited universities that will award you a degree if you can demonstrate knowledge of your field. This would allow you to obtain much better employment a lot sooner. My suggestion is that you obtain a fully accredited degree through correspondence study. This is the perfect solution. You can work, in the evening, toward establishing professional credentials that will withstand scrutiny by professional licensing authorities. Also, many universities offer evening degree programs. The point is you can use your professional skills again, if you are willing to wait to re-acquire credentials in your permanent identity's name.

You will step into your permanent new identity much as you stepped into the transitional identity. On a pre-selected day, the transitional "you" will simply vanish. You would arrange to pay off all your obligations, and make small talk at work and church about moving to Africa, or some other story. Then on the appointed day you would pick up your new wallet, head for the bus station, and a little while later arrive at your new place of residence and become a "permanent you." The beauty of the permanent identity is you have plenty of time to cover all the bases. These include:

Educational Background

Personal Background

Financial Background (Banking and Credit)

Insurance/Medical History

Automobile

Employment

If you follow the instructions contained herein, after you are living in your permanent identity, you should be able to run across people that you knew before and not even be recognized. Everything about you will be different. I wish you good luck. Straighten up and fly right!

Part II
LIVING WITH THE NEW IDENTITY

Chapter Fourteen
THE PROBLEM OF MENTAL STRESS

Creating a new identity and living successfully under a new identity are two related but separate tasks. This is one important point often overlooked by those individuals or government agencies involved in providing new identities. Every so often we read in the media of how an undercover policeman with hundreds of successful arrests is himself arrested for crimes similar to the ones he was investigating. Popular television programs such as *Wiseguy* have attempted to illustrate some of the problems posed by living under a new identity.

It makes no difference if you are living under a new identity due to your own personal choice or, as undercover officers do, as part of your job. You will be subject to some of the same stresses and pressures either way. The key to living and prospering under a new identity successfully is to understand these psychological forces that will be at work on you and to deal with them in ways that do not jeopardize your new life. Generally, it can be assumed that if a person is living long

term under a new identity, he has substantial reasons for doing so and is not just a casual user of a new identity.

So often on television programs that enlist the public's aid in capturing fugitives, the fugitives are caught because they compromised their new identity. We will look at some of these cases and see how in most of them it was the mental pressure of living as someone else which caused them to reveal themselves. The same is true for the often destructive behavior that undercover cops display off duty. Living under a new identity is not a normal state of affairs for most people and this causes the build up of a lot of internal pressures over time. Often when these pressures build up, the person living under the new identity becomes careless and does things that compromise the new identity. We want to avoid this.

If your reasons for "starting over" are serious, then it is not enough merely to understand the mechanics of the new identity. Your goal must be long term stability in the "new you."

Chapter Fifteen
BONDING WITH YOUR NEW IDENTITY

Starting life over again under a new identity has some very distinct phases. The first phase starts when you actively decide to create the new identity and begin assembling the various pieces of paper to document it. For undercover police officers on a long term assignment, a similar process occurs when they receive a fresh set of identification in their "new name."

During this phase the new identity still seems a little surreal. After all, it is not "really" you. You are now learning "your" new birthdate, address, and other vital statistics. As you compile enough new identification to the point where you can actually start functioning again in society, you may feel a sense of relief. If, for example, you are leaving behind $20,000 worth of debts in your old identity, you may feel a rush of relief when you get your first credit card in your new name. At the same time you may have feelings of "pulling the wool" over society's eyes or even feel guilty about your decision to sidestep your past.

The reason you will feel this way is that you and your new identity still have not "bonded" at this point. In your deepest mind, this new identity is still another person and you do not really see yourself as this new person. This phase takes a few months to pass through. It gradually changes as you make friends and start to live under this new identity. During this time period, you are most susceptible to making such basic errors as signing your name with your old signature.

When police officers must prepare for a long term undercover identity that could expose them to harm if their true identity is revealed, they undergo a period of rigorous familiarization with the person they are to become. By the time this process is over, they not only know the basic particulars of their new identity by heart, but also the overall background and mannerisms that would go with the person they are becoming. Essentially, the beginning phase of a new identity involves a good acting job, and this is one way to approach it. If your new identity is that of someone born in Boston who moved to the West Coast only two years ago, you have a lot of preparation to do. Your speech, habits, appearance and mannerisms should convince another New Englander that, yes, in fact, you are from Boston.

You must sit down and learn the details of your new "self" from front to back. Consider for a moment all of the personal information about yourself that you can rattle off at the drop of a hat. You could give your birthdate, your home and work telephone numbers, your height and weight, place of birth, parents' names, your old high school, and on and on and on. You must learn these same bits of data by heart for the new person you will become. This requires some diligent effort, but the return is well worth it. A good example is provided by

the case of a police officer who did not do this groundwork preparation carefully enough.

In the late 1970s and early 1980s, a major attempt was made by the New York City Police Department, along with the FBI, to infiltrate and destroy a criminal group known as the "Russian Mafia." The Russian Mafia was made up primarily of former Soviet Jews who had managed to get exit visas from the Soviet Union. Often members of the Russian Mafia had been low level criminals at home in the Soviet Union. Upon their arrival in New York they were exposed to the much more lucrative world of drugs, prostitution, and money laundering, and out of this a growing criminal enterprise had been created.

To infiltrate this group would be no easy task. Unlike the traditional Mafia with literally hundreds of thousands of inducted or "made" members and associates splintered amongst various family factions, the Russian Mafia was a much smaller, more close-knit group. Often, members knew each other directly from before in the Soviet Union, or through relatives back in Russia. This made the placement of an undercover officer all the more difficult. It would not be enough simply to have an officer of the necessary religion and ethnic background who could also speak Russian. His background would have to mesh and be verifiable. Furthermore, the classic undercover methods of inserting a stooge police officer would not work. The Russian Mafia would not willingly take on an eager young recruit. In fact, the Russian Mafia was insistent that lower level members would only traffic in drugs and other goods with other ethnic Russians. Only the higher up members were allowed to deal with other criminal groups and sell outside of the community. This meant that to catch any of the "big fish" at the top, the

undercover agent would have to be placed for the long term, perhaps three or four years.

A suitable prospect was eventually found. He was relatively new to the force. He was a Soviet-descended Jew, his parents having immigrated from the Soviet Union, and he spoke Russian with fluency. The police were able to create the necessary background for him without too much trouble. His story would be that his parents were killed soon after this birth. The identity was backstopped with appropriate records at the vital statistics bureau and other places. The undercover agent would attempt to move up high enough in the organization to where he could learn about the contacts and drug import sources. The plan was ambitious, and it all hinged on the believability of the new identity.

The extent of "backstopping" this policeman's identity cannot be understated. A car was purchased in his "new" name, and then the registration and title documents were backdated a year and filed in the appropriate places at the courthouse. A drivers license was obtained, once again backdated to the point where it would not appear to be newly issued. Telephone records were created, a credit and employment history, and even education records at a local high school and university. The Federal Government cooperated by providing a valid Social Security number, passport with appropriate travel stamps, and even a tax return history with the IRS. Few undercover identities were as well conceived or executed as this one.

The infiltration operation began. The undercover cop became an acquaintance of a nightclub owner who was known to be a key player in the Russian Mafia. His nightclub served as a meeting and recruitment spot where new

immigrants who were inclined to such activity could be picked up. Initially the operation was a success. Our undercover cop was given low level, routine assignments such as delivering cocaine to low level dealers or providing "muscle" on certain operations. During all this time he was being watched closely by the other members to see if he was "material," and, secondly, to make sure he was no undercover cop.

When he was learning his new identity, the police force made it clear that he must totally become the person. The young, unseasoned cop did not realize this. He was told that he must totally bond into this character, act like him, think like him, etc. There had to be a total separation of his old self and the new person he would become. Our college educated man had a little trouble with the notion of seeing himself as a street punk in a gang. This caused him to lose his life. He made two small errors that did not go unnoticed.

The first error was that our undercover cop had not given up all his old hobby interests when living as the new character. One of this hobbies was computer software programming. He was very good at it and loved to read every possible computer magazine available. He purchased these magazines and they filled the apartment that his "undercover" identity lived in. This did not fit with the identity of someone who barely got through high school and was thrown out of college for lousy grades. It certainly did not fit the image of a tough, crude-mouthed gang member.

The second error was fatal. His new identity had been built around the fact that his parents had died when he was young and that he had no other relatives in America. After initial suspicions had been aroused it was determined that they

would find out for sure if our undercover agent was who he said he was.

Our agent was invited to dine and celebrate with a higher up in the Russian Mafia. The undercover cop thought it was the breakthrough he had been working for. Had he bonded properly to his new identity, it would have been. Instead, he met his death. At the "party" alcohol flowed freely, and his associates told him it would be an insult to the "Boss" if he did not partake his fill. Four hours later, the "Boss" started to make small talk with the undercover cop, who was not quite drunk, and in the course of the evening asked about his family. Our agent started to mention something about his relatives, and then quickly caught himself. It was already too late. Three days later he was found dead.

The crucial mistake that our undercover policeman made was that he failed to *see himself* as the new person. Only when you see yourself becoming the new person are you actually able to avoid problems like this. Had he seen himself as the person with no family, then, even drunk, he would have given the correct answers when asked about it. Instead, he saw himself as someone *playing a role* as this other person.

The easiest way to bond with a new identity is to first create it properly. An incomplete new identity will not allow you to have the confidence you need to assume it properly. Make sure all of the bases are covered when you set it up. The second point is gradually to spend more and more time as this new person. While you are setting up the new identity, go to a nearby city on a Friday night and practice living as this person. Learn all of your vital statistics and background correctly and try going out to a nightclub and introducing

yourself as "John Jones" to people you meet. Make a little small talk. This will help immeasurably later on.

Chapter Sixteen
BONDING WITH YOUR NEW IDENTITY II

To bond effectively into your new identity over the long haul requires that you acquire some different traits and habits than the old you. This is necessary because you yourself will not believe in your new identity if the "new" person does everything that the "old" you would do, except in a different name. This creates long term stress, and in the case of the individual leaving serious business behind in the old life, it can cause you to make stupid errors that can lead to your discovery.

You should be able to see the difference clearly between the old you and the new you. As time goes on the old you should seem more and more like a stranger to you. A key factor in this is your physical appearance. If you are 6' tall, and weigh 350 pounds, and have a beard, you should consider losing weight and shaving off your beard. This creates a clear, visible difference between the old you and the new you. You also need to pay close attention to such things as how you walk, stand, sit, dress, and even your speech pattern. Two examples can serve to illustrate how this is a

vital component of successful, long term identity change. The first example is from my own experience; the second is an FBI case.

I know a woman who runs a small dry cleaning business. She has an assistant who can be called in to help out with the work during rush periods. This assistant is an intelligent young man, in his 20s, who has some interest in alternative identities. He also has waist length hair and is quite often ungroomed and unshaven. Needless to say his appearance cries out for attention, and it is quite impossible to ignore his presence.

The young man was interested in possibly accomplishing an identity change that would allow him to live in another country as a citizen of that nation. I advised him that to be successful in such an endeavor he would have to alter his appearance and mannerisms totally. He said it would be no problem for him to do so, but I had my doubts. He also wanted to relocate to this country with his girlfriend, who had similar taste in decorum and personal appearance.

This man would surely fail at an identity change because he would never be able to sever his new self from the old. Even worse, he wanted to do this in concert with another person. Except in a few cases, more than one person attempting to build a secure, long term identity at the same time is an exercise doomed to failure. The reason for this is neither one of you will *believe* that you are this new person. In fact, when you are together, be it alone at home, or out somewhere, you will probably continue to address each other by your real names. Generally, the only time two people can successfully execute an identity change together are when both are married to each other and both are in 100%

agreement on the need to live under a new identity. But otherwise, it is best to follow the "avoid women rule." Do not, under any circumstances, get involved with a woman until after your new identity has bonded with you. More about this later.

The second example involves the experiences of an FBI agent who had a long term undercover assignment to penetrate a large automobile theft ring on the West coast. He was in his early 30s and had been with the FBI about four years. Although his assignment was an undercover one, it was felt that the auto theft ring he was going to infiltrate was not violent enough to require him to immerse himself fully in his new identity. This agent would leave his wife and children in the morning, go to the office and pick up his wallet of alternative identification, and then go do his business as a neophyte auto thief. The things he was a part of on the job were sleazy. He would be on the lookout when the more senior members broke into car lots and garages to steal cars. Once the cars where stolen, he could help out in the "chop shop" where the vehicle serial numbers were changed and the cars repainted. He also spent a lot of leisure time with these people, having dinner and socializing with them.

He was very successful. Over the two year period he spent inside the ring, he gathered enough information to allow for many arrests, and the ring never suspected that he was a mole. He was given awards, commendations and even a promotion for his work.

You might be wondering how his career ended. Is he happily retired now on his Federal pension? The answer is no. A few months after his undercover work ended, this agent was arrested in a department store and charged with

shoplifting. Further investigation revealed that since his undercover work had ended, he had been involved in a string of theft incidents. Why did this happen?

This happened because there was no difference in this man's mind between the "old" him, his true self, and the person he had to become when he was involved with the auto theft ring. Remember, he simply went to work every day and then slipped into his new identity. The stress this created is now recognized by the FBI, and they now insist that long term undercover agents undergo psychological counseling before and after an undercover assignment. They also require that undercover agents physically distance themselves from their actual looks and manners. Our agent who went bad could no longer distinguish between the old and the new. This mental confusion eventually caused enough stress to where he had to expose it somehow, and this was through committing acts of thievery.

You must learn from this agent's experience. By altering your body appearance and physical mannerisms, you will create the mental distance between the old and new you that you need. As time goes on, you will look back at the old you as a different person altogether. The old you had a different hairstyle, weighed more or less, walked differently, spoke differently, etc. Once you have gotten these new habits ingrained, you will find that they allow you to look at yourself in the mirror and say: "Yes, now I am John Jones of 44 Sparkmore Street, born on August 20, 1950." And you will convince other people of the same facts.

Chapter Seventeen
LIVING THE LIFE

Living long term under a new identity involves making those major decisions that are life-defining. Often, it is at this point that even the diligent identity changer will not be prepared. Many long term new identities fall apart at this point. Even if you have successfully completed the first two phases of living in a new identity, the odds are very high that you see yourself as something of a vagabond in your new life.

Even though you might have bonded enough to your new identity to avoid some obvious mistakes, such as signing your old signature to your new checks, the completeness of your mental commitment will not be tested until much later. One way to judge this is to think if you were at a shopping mall and heard someone call out your "old" name. Would you still instinctively turn your head in the direction of the voice? By the same token, would you turn your head if someone in a crowded place called out your new name?

A crisis can develop if you are living in your new identity and you learn, for example, that the woman you have been dating and who only knows you as "John Jones" wants to get

more serious and get engaged to be married. What do you do then? Or what if you had to leave your old life behind totally because you were a witness in a Federal trial and you have heard that a relative has had a baby or is sick? These types of situations and the mental stresses they cause have led to the downfall of many new identity seekers. Let's look at a couple of case histories and then examine how this problem is dealt with.

William Doakes (names have been changed to protect the privacy of those involved) was an idealistic young man in his early 20s. He had been raised with a strong sense of civic duty and concept of right and wrong. Mr. Doakes was a mechanic in a prosperous suburb of Miami. Purely by chance, on his way home one evening, Mr. Doakes witnessed a brutal shootout between local and Federal police and three violent criminals connected to the drug importing that is rampant in South Florida. One of the gunman was killed along with two of the agents. The other two gunmen successfully fled in a car. Mr. Doakes had seen both gunmen as well as the car they fled in. He was the only witness.

After the crime occurred and the investigation ended with no arrests, the police began to advertise for information and witnesses on the local *Crimestoppers* show, and eventually this incident even made the television program *America's Most Wanted*. Mr. Doakes agonized over whether to become a witness. Eventually, after the incident was featured on *America's Most Wanted*, he called the police and told what he knew. This was enough to enable the police to make an arrest, but to prosecute the men they would need his testimony. The police assured him that they would protect him and his family during the trial and afterwards they would all receive new identities under the Federal Witness

Protection Program and be able to start life over again. Mr. Doakes took the police at their word and agreed to testify. It wasn't the best decision he ever made. He would pay for it dearly.

During the trial everything seemed to flow smoothly. He and his wife were relocated to a safe house and other relatives were given increased police patrols. Of course, when he did testify, he had to agree to be identified in court, and from that point onward, he was in peril. The South American drug cartel that had contracted out the hits on the policemen now were out to get him. When the trial ended with the convictions of the hit men, the nightmare was only beginning for Mr. Doakes and his wife.

Now the FBI and the U.S. Marshals service told them what the entire ramifications of their new life would be like. First, they could no longer have any direct contact with any of their former friends or relatives. The only contact they could have would be through the FBI or the Marshals service. This meant no telephone calls, no visits home on birthdays or holidays, etc. The second part of the deal was that the entire background and employment history of both Mr. Doakes and his wife would have to be changed 100%. They could not afford the risk of someone finding out their true identity and location through a past job reference or acquaintance. This would mean that both would have to work at jobs that paid much less than their previous salaries until they built up "experience" in their new identities. The government would provide financial assistance for a while, but that would end after a relatively short period of time.

The real shocker came when the U.S. Marshals asked them for all of their credit cards, bank checks, old identification and

other personal paraphernalia. They were then given new wallets containing new identity documents. They would have no credit rating, so instead of purchasing a home, they would have to rent again.

That evening the U.S. Marshals service took the Doakes out of the safe house and across the country a thousand miles to a new life. When they arrived at their new location, they were placed into a motel at federal expense. After they had found an apartment to rent, they were on their own. The U.S. Marshals cautioned them not to attempt to contact anyone back home unless it was through them and to be aware of any suspicious activity. If they felt in danger, they could call the U.S. Marshals at any time, and within an hour they would be relocated again.

Needless to say, the reality of functioning under this new identity and the image Mr. Doakes had in his mind was dramatically opposed. Mr. and Mrs. Doakes had had no time to bond into their new identities and backgrounds, and essentially they were friendless aliens dropped somewhere and left to fend for themselves. They managed to find employment, but they could not resist the urge to telephone their relatives on Thanksgiving Day. Mr. Doakes called his parents and they had a thirty minute chat. In the course of the conversation, Mr. Doakes revealed where they were located and that they were alright. Mr. Doakes' father passed this information along to *other* relatives. Five days later Mr. Doakes was shot in his apartment in Kansas City. His wife noticed some suspicious men around the neighborhood the night her husband was killed, and she had called the U.S. Marshals. The Marshals had arrived too late.

The other example is that of a longtime con man. This man had always fancied himself as an airline pilot and proceeded to acquire a counterfeit airline pilot identity card. He also obtained uniforms and on one flight was even accorded the privilege of flying the airplane. Pilots riding in transit often are allowed the privilege by the captain. He was able to cash a stream of tens of thousands of dollars in bad checks at airports all over the world to finance his "airline pilot" lifestyle. He had girlfriends galore. His new identity gave him the best of life. But, it was about to crumble.

On one of his many "flights" as a fellow airline pilot in transit, he met a stewardess whom he cared about, and who really cared for him. The relationship got as far as an engagement. She wanted him to meet her parents a few days before the wedding. She and her "pilot" suitor went for a long bike ride, and it was here that our " pilot" decided to tell the whole truth about his activities. He told her everything. She started to cry and went back to the house. He went back about an hour later, but to his dismay he saw police cars in the driveway, and being the chivalrous fellow he is, kept on pedaling.

What happens if you meet someone in your new identity and you want to get married? Are you a fraud, like our "pilot" friend? Perhaps you will have these kinds of feelings. Should you tell all? Most people living under a new identity are not prepared for this juncture. But sooner or later, this or something similar will occur. Maybe the urge to call home is just too great to resist anymore.

The answer depends upon your individual circumstances. The first consideration is, what are you doing with yourself under your new identity? If you are trying to make a life like

other people, then at some pint you have actually "become" in reality this new person. If you are going to work, paying the bills and being a productive member of society under your new identity, at some point you become this person and have a right to feel as such. Our "pilot" was not such an individual. His use of an alternate identity was only to present a false image so he could rip other people off financially and emotionally.

The other consideration is why you have found it necessary to assume a new identity. If, for example, you are a federally protected witness, you have few alternatives. One way to deal with the loss of your former friends and family is by creating meaningful relationships in your present life. Even for the criminal who has made his mistake and now wants to live within the law and be a productive person, a new identity can provide an avenue to redemption.

These are the considerations that you must balance. You can minimize the extent of any feelings of being a fraud by bonding as soon as possible with your new identity and seeing yourself as this new person. As far as marriage goes, I certainly would not recommend you get married in a new identity if you were, and still are, married under your true name. If you have never married and are living productively in a new identity, you might consider it the ultimate step in "becoming" the new you by taking on a life partner for your new life. Years later you may then wish to tell your spouse the truth about your background.

Another alternative is to file a change of name document. You could do this through one of two ways. You could do it through the court method in a small town or county in the state where you reside. Most states require three days notice

in a local paper. Your change of name would only be on file at the local courthouse and in back issues of some low circulation county newspaper.

The other alternative is to change your name through the "use" method, which is essentially what you will have done by living under your new identity. Essentially, you would use the declaration of name change forms. You would fill these out and have them notarized. In the future, you could then show these as proof of the link between the old and new you's, should you happen to meet that "significant other."

CONCLUSION

I hope this book will be of help to those who, for one reason or another, find it necessary to change their identities. The psychological problems that come with living long term under a new identity cannot be eliminated, but they can be minimized by careful planning and anticipation.

Appendix
STATE NAME CHANGE LAWS

Alabama
Filing a petition
Probate Court in county of choice
"Use" method possible

Alaska
Filing a petition
Superior Court,
State Capitol Bldg., Pouch U
Juneau, AK 99801
Notice to be filed in newspaper designated by court

Arizona
Filing a petition
Superior Court
Notice by publishing

Arkansas
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
List reasons for wanting name change

California
Filing a petition
Superior Court
Notice by publication, "Use" method recognized
Four week waiting period

Colorado
Filing a petition
Superior, District or County Court
District Court of Colorado
145 U.S. Court House
Denver, CO 80202
Notice by publication

Connecticut
Filing a petition
Superior Court, Deputy Court Administrator
Drawer D, Station A
Hartford, CT 06106
A lawyer may be required

Delaware
Filing a petition
District Court
Notice by publication

District of Columbia
Filing a petition
U.S. District Court
Notice by publication, must be resident

Florida
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
Must be resident, answer detailed questions about personal history

Georgia
Filing a petition
Superior Court
Answer detailed questions about personal history

Hawaii
By filing a petition and a decree
Lieutenant Governor's office
Extremely detailed filing system, lawyer recommended

Idaho
No known existing laws
No information re: where
Contact Secretary of State's Office, "Use" method should prevail

Illinois
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
Resident for six months
Detailed personal information required

Indiana
No known existing laws
No information re: where
"Use" method should prevail

Iowa
Filing a petition
District Court
Detailed personal history required
Must be a resident

Kansas
Filing a petition
District Court
Notice by publication
Must be a resident

Kentucky
Petition not required
Local County Court
Local records only

Louisiana
Name change forms
District Court
Need lawyer
"Use" method void

Maine
By filing a petition
Probate Court
Lawyer needed

Maryland
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
Lawyer not required

Massachusetts
By filing a petition
Probate Court
Notice by publication

Michigan
Filing a petition
Probate Court
Detailed personal history required

Minnesota
Filing a petition
District Court
Must provide two personal witnesses

Missouri
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
20 day waiting, file by publication

Montana
Filing a petition
District Court
File notice by publication, local records only

Nebraska
Filing a petition
District Court
Must be resident for one year, notification by publication

Nevada
Filing a petition
District Court
Notice by publication

New Hampshire
No known laws
Probate Court
"Use" method should apply

New Jersey
No known laws, no forms
County Court
Local records only

New York
Filing a petition
Depending on place of application, civil or local courts
Past history of applicant required

North Carolina
Filing a petition
Superior Court
Must provide character witnesses and numerous details of past history

North Dakota
Filing a petition
District Court
Notice of publication
Six months residency required

Ohio
Filing a petition
Probate Court
One year residency required
Notification by publication

Oklahoma
Filing a petition
District Court
Very restrictive procedure

Oregon
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
Notice by publication
Must give reasons to Judge

Pennsylvania
Filing a petition
Probate Court
"Use" method not recognized
Many details required

Rhode Island
Filing a petition
Probate Court
Lawyer may be required

South Carolina
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
"Use" method is questionable, should investigate

South Dakota
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
Resident for six months
Notice by publication
Other details about personal history

Tennessee
Filing a petition
Probate or County Court
"Use" method may be acceptable
Local records only

Texas
Filing a petition
District Court
Local records only

Utah
Filing a petition
District Court
Must be resident for one year
Notice of publication

Vermont
Filing a petition
Probate Court
Detailed personal history required
Notice of publication

Virginia
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
Detailed personal history required

Washington
Filing a petition
Superior Court
Local records only

West Virginia
Filing a petition
Circuit Court
1 year residency required
Local records only
Must be resident for two years

Wisconsin
Filing a petition
District Court
Local records only
Must be a resident

Wyoming
Filing a petition
District Court
Must be resident for two years

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